

A NEW SPECIES OF HUERNIA FROM PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA

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(With Plate VII.)

Huernia repens Lavranos, sp. nov.

Affinis *H. Volkartii* Gossweiler sed lobis coronae interioris valide deflexis, floribus majoribus, caulibus longioribus, semper repentibus differt.

Caules repentens tenus 30 cm. (50 cm.) longi, 7—9 mm. crassi, 5-angulati, virides vel viridipurpurei; folia minusquam 1 mm. longa, decidua; flores 2—3 aggregati; bractae valde breves, lineares, aliquando absentes; pedicelli circa 10 mm. longi, teretes, penae glabri; sepala acuminata, 5 mm. longa; corolla 7—8 mm. longa, inter apices loborum 27 mm. lata, extus leviter scabra-tuberculata, puniceo-lutea, leviter maculis purpureis punctata, intus pallide lutea, fusco-purpurea marginata transversa fusco-purpurea striata, pars superior tubi et lobi papillis albescentibus vel purpureis tenus 2 mm. longis induti; lobi deltoidei acuti, patuli, basi 7—8 mm. lati, apicem penae deflexi; lobi intermedii 4 mm. longi, basi $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. lati, canaliculati, paulo deflexi; tubus suburceolatus, 6 mm. longus, orem penae constrictus, basi glabrus transversus fusco-purpureus striatus; corona exterior fusco-purpurea, 5 mm. diametro, basi tubi adpressa, lobis $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. latis longisque ad apices indentatis; coronae interioris lobi erecti, basi fusco-purpurei, supra lutei purpurei maculati, parte media conniventes, incumbentes et exhibiti supra antheras, parte apicale valide deflexi, crassiores et minute papillati.

TYPE LOCALITY, Farm "Jaegerslust", Garuso, Portuguese East Africa, Schweickerdt col. 1958 (PRE, Holotype).

Stems always prostrate with a trailing habit, up to 30 cm. (50 cm.) long, 7—9 mm. thick, glabrous, green to purplish brown, 5-angled, with a transverse groove above each leaf.

Leaves less than 1 mm. long, persisting only for a few months.

Flowers two or three from base of young stems, developed successively.

Bracts very short, linear, sometimes absent.

Pedicel terete, appr. 10 mm. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. thick, reddish purple, almost glabrous.

Sepals linear-acuminate, 5 mm. long, 3—5 nerved, the median nerve rather prominent.

Corolla spreading appr. 27 mm. between apices of lobes; *lobes* deltoid-acuminate, spreading, 7—8 mm. broad at base, about 8 mm. long, tapering to a very acute and slightly deflexed point, the outer surface 5-nerved, the 3 inner nerves ridge-like, purplish; *intermediate lobes* very prominent, 4 mm. long, 1½ mm. broad at base, deeply canaliculate, somewhat deflexed; *outer surface* slightly scabrid-tuberculate on tube becoming more so on the lobes, pinkish-cream with faint purplish markings; *inner surface* narrowly margined with dark purple, cream with dark purple dots on the lobes and mouth of tube which are densely covered with dark purple and cream bristle-like papillae, up to 2 mm. long at mouth of tube but shorter on the lobes; *tube* sub-urceolate, 6—7 mm. long, slightly constricted at mouth, glabrous at base and lower portion with alternating continuous cream and dark purple bands.

Outer corona very dark purple, adpressed against the corolla-tube, appr. 5 mm. in diameter, the lobes 1½ mm. broad and long with entire margins and one shallow indentation at their apices.

Inner corona lobes erect, 5 mm. long, dark purple at base, thereafter cream dotted with purple, connivent in the middle portion, incumbent upon and produced above the anthers, the apical part rather strongly deflexed, enlarged and minutely papillate.

In floral characters *H. repens* is very closely allied to *H. Volkartii* Gossweiler from Angola and Northern S.W. Africa. Both these species have a suburceolate corolla-tube, slightly constricted at the mouth, the inner corolla-surface densely covered with long, bristle-like papillae, while the inner portion of the tube is quite glabrous. Both have very long and narrow intermediate corolla-lobes. The colour pattern of the flowers is very similar, in *H. Volkartii*, however, the purple dots on the corolla-lobes are disposed in almost continuous bands. The corolla-lobes of *H. Volkartii* become so strongly revolute that they are folded back against the tube, a character not noticed in the new species. The outer corona lobes of *H. repens* are as long as they are broad with only one shallow indentation at the apex of each lobe while in all the specimens of *H. Volkartii* which the author has had the opportunity to examine, the outer corona lobes are slightly longer than broad with two indentations and a rather pronounced median projection. The inner corona lobes of *H. Volkartii* are more erect and much less deflexed and enlarged at their apices. Finally, the flowers of this species are much smaller than those of *H. repens*.

It is, however, in their respective habits of growth that these two species are widely different. The stems of *H. repens* are always decumbent and up to 50 cm. long while those of *H. Volkartii* are only 7—10 cm. long, ascending erect, thinner, the leaves more persistent.

Apart from this, its apparent closest ally, *H. repens*, appears to bear a rather marked affinity to *H. erinacea* Bally from Kenya but, apart from more marked floral differences, its habit is totally different.

It may be noted that, in its trailing habit, the new species resembles certain forms of *H. aspera* N. E. Brown, from Kenya, *H. pendula* Bruce from the Eastern Cape Province and *H. Leachii* Lavranos which occurs only about 50 miles from the type locality of the new species but belongs to a different section of the genus.

H. repens clearly belongs to the *Hystrix* section of White and Sloane's *macrocarpa-brevirostris* group.

This interesting new species was first collected by Professor Schweickerdt of the University of Pretoria on the farm "Jaegerslust" in the Garuso area of Portuguese East Africa, growing in *Brachystegia* bushland.

Plants collected by Prof. Schweickerdt flowered in the author's collection at Bryanston, Johannesburg, on the 29th December 1959, when the present description was drawn up. The name was suggested by the characteristic trailing habit of this species, the stems of which are never erect or even ascending.

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My thanks also go to Prof. Schweickerdt for the living material and much interesting information regarding the new species and the area wherein it occurs.



FIG. 2.

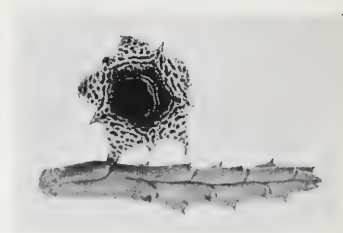


FIG. 1.

PLATE VII.

FIG. 1.—*Flowering stem, actual size.*

FIG. 2.—*The type plant, actual size.*

Photographs: Division of Botany, Pretoria.